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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/522,468	09/02/2005	Wei-Bin Chang	TW 020011	8280

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PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS
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EXAMINER	
SAINT CYR, LEONARD	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2626	

DATE MAILED: 12/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/522,468	CHANG, WEI-BIN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Leonard Saint-Cyr	2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Picone et al., (Kanji-to-Hiragana conversion based on a length-constrained N-gram analysis).

As per claim 1, and 8, Picone et al., teach determining automatically a reading of Japanese word, including:

receiving an input string of at least one character representing the Japanese word (fig.1 shows an input string of characters; fig.1; page 686, col.1, lines 6 – 13);

choosing for each character of the Japanese word a corresponding reading (see fig.1) by:

for each character determining whether the character is a kanji, hiragana, or katakana character (segmenting the text of fig.1 implies determining whether the character is a kanji, hiragana, or katakana character; fig.1; page 685, col.2, lines 8 – 12; page 686, col.1, lines 6 – 13);

for a hiragana or katakana character choosing the only one reading associated with the character ("hiragana is a representation that is quite close to the actual pronunciation"; fig.1; page 686, col.2, lines 3 – 4);

for a kanji character determining whether or not the immediately preceding character and/or the immediately succeeding character is also a kanji character; and choosing for the kanji character an on-reading associated with the kanji character if the immediately preceding character and/or the immediately succeeding character is also a kanji character, and choosing a kun-reading associated with the kanji character otherwise (using onyomi reading when the character occurs as part of a group of kanji characters, and using kunyomi when the character is read by itself imply choosing for the kanji character an on-reading associated with the kanji character if the immediately preceding character and/or the immediately succeeding character is also a kanji character, and choosing a kun-reading associated with the kanji character otherwise; page 694, col.2, lines 2 – 5);

concatenating the corresponding readings of each character of the Japanese word, and outputting the concatenated reading (fig.1 shows a concatenated reading output of hiragana, katakana, and kanji; fig.1; page 686, col.2, lines 29 – 31).

As per claim 2, and 3, Picone et al., further disclose choosing a most frequent one of a plurality of kun-readings associated with the kanji character, and a most frequent one of a plurality of on-reading associated with the kanji character ("selecting the most common pronunciation of kanji text" page 686, col.2, lines 14 – 24).

As per claim 4, Picone et al., further disclose selecting a group of a plurality of sequential kanji (kanji sequence) characters in the word, including the kanji character

being converted (conversion), and choosing a most frequent one of a plurality of on-readings associated with the group of kanji characters ("selecting the most common pronunciation of kanji text" page 686, col.2, lines 14 – 24; fig.1; page 687, col.2, lines 6 – 7).

As per claim 5, Picone et al., further disclose that each hiragana character is associated with one reading, and for a hiragana character of the word choosing the associated reading ("hiragana is a representation that is quite close to the actual pronunciation" implies that each hiragana character is associated with one reading; fig.1; page 686, col.2, lines 3 – 4).

As per claim 6, Picone et al., further disclose that each katakana character is associated with a corresponding hiragana character, and the method includes for a hiragana character of the word choosing the reading associated with the hiragana character corresponding to the katakana character (fig.1 shows that each katakana character is associated with a corresponding hiragana character; fig.1).

As per claim 7, Picone et al., further disclose a computer program product operative to cause a processor to perform the method as claimed in claim 1 (program written in C++; page 693, col.2, lines 53 - 56).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Critchlow (US PAP 2002/0152246) teaches a method for predicting the reading of Japanese Ideographs.

Hiroe et al., (US PAP 2003/0152261) teach a method and device for recognition of letters or characters, a plural number of kana readings inferred from the letters or characters.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leonard Saint-Cyr whose telephone number is (571) 272 4247. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon- Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richemond Dorvil can be reached on (571) 272 7602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571)-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

RICHEMOND DORVIL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

LS
12/05/06